

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 12010 071453Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 SSM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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R 071310Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6795

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION SINAI

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TAGS: PFOR EG LE XF

SUBJ: ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL AND LEBANON

REF: CAIRO 11977

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12010 071453Z

1. SUMMARY. ARAB LEAGUE NEW SEPTEMBER 7 CENTERS ON GRANTING OF FULL MEMBERSHIP TO PLO AND STRESSES ACCOMPLISHMENTS RATHER THAN DISAGREEMENTS. PRESS CRITICISM OF SYRIA CONTINUES, BUT THERE LESS OF IT AND IT LESS SHRILL. MEETINGS SEEM TO HAVE HAD NO IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON LEBANESE CONFLICT, BUT THERE INKLINGS OF ACCOMMODATION AND SOME HEAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. AL MEMBERSHIP FOR PLO. CAIRO PRESS SEPTEMBER 7 HERALDED ARAB LEAGUE APPROVAL OF "EGYPTIAN REQUEST" THAT PLO ACCEPTED AS FULL MEMBER OF ARAF ACYNUE. ACTION PLAYED UP AS ACCOMPLISHMENT WHICH CONSOLIDATES ARAB AND PALESTINIAN INTERNATIONAL GAINS, STRENGTHENS PLO VIS-A-VIS UN, AND CONFIRMS INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN NATIONAL IDENTIFY. (COMMENT: SINCE PLO COULD ALWASYS COUNT ON AT LEAST ONE MEMBER TO PUT FORWARD ITS PROPOSALS, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT PRATICAL EFFECT FULL MEMBERSHIP WILL HAVE.)

3. OTHER COUNCIL ACTIONS WHICH SEEM CALCULATED TO GIVE APPEARANCE THAT MEETINGS RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE GO AHEAD FOR PREPARATIONS FOR FIRST AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN CAIRO IN FEBRUARY 1977 AND CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE TO PREPARE FOR ARAB SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR THIRD WEEK OF OCTOBER. COMMITTEE, HEADED BY AL SYG RIAD, AND COMPRISED OF TUNISIAN, SAUDI AND KUWAITI FONMINS, IS CHARGED WITH "CREATING FAVORABLE CONDITIONS IN LEBANON" PRIOR TO SUMMIT. LIBYAN WITHDRAWAL OF ITS COMPLAINT TO AL ON EGYPTIAN MILITARY BUILDUP ALONG LIBYAN BORDER CAST ADDITIONAL POSITIVE LIGHT ON ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING.

4. COUNCIL, ACCORDING TO VOA REPORTER, HAS MAINTAINED APPEARANCE OF TRANQUILITY AND SMOOTHNESS IN ITS DISCUSSIONS. ONE SOUR NOTE, NOT PUBLICIZED HERE, STRUCK BY QADDUMI AFTER SEPTEMBER 4 SESSION. HE CRITICIZED SYRIANS FOR FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT ACCORD WITH PALESTINIANS, STRESSED THAT SYRIANS MUST WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON, AND SPOKE OUT AGAINST IDEA OF SYRIAN-JORDAN-LEBANESE CONFEDERATION. QADDUMI SAID HIS MEETING WITH SADAT WAS "FRUITFUL" AND DESCRIBED USSR AS STILL PLO'S "CLOSEST FRIEND". HE CLAIMED THAT LEBANESE SITUATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 12010 071453Z

MORE THAN MERE SUMMIT, REQUIRED "SPECIFIC ACTIONS" TO GET SYRIANS OUT. HE DID NOT SAY SO DIRECTLY, BUT GAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HE DISSATISFIED WITH REMOTE DATE FOR SUMMIT. QADDUMI WENT ON TO MEETING WITH MINDEF GAMASY SEPTEMBER 6 WITH SAID KAMAL AND REBHI AWAD IN TOW.

5. EGYPTIANS, MEANWHILE, ARE PUTTING BEST FACE ON MATTERS IN VISIBLE FROM OF MUTED CRITICISM OF SYRIA. SOME PRESS SNIPING

DOES CONTINUE, FOR INSTANCE IN NEGATIVE REPORTS TACKED ON TO MAJOR COVERAGE OF ALLEGED PERES VISITS TO LEBANON, THAT SYRIAN BORDER WITH ISRAEL "PARTLY OPEN". SHORT AHRAH EDITORIAL GRUMBLED THAT SYRIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON, BASED ON THE FIGHTING, WILL CAUSE CONTINUATION OF HOSTILITIES RATHER THAN LEAD TO STABILITY. THERE NONE OF USUAL VITRIOL SPLASHED ACROSS PAGES OF DAILIES, HOWEVER, AND AIR OF RESIGNATION TO SYRIAN GAINS SEEMS TO BE CREEPING IN.

6. COMMENT: WITH SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS OUT OF THE WAY OR TEMPORARILY SIDESTEPED, COUNCIL MEETING, WHICH CONTINUES SEPTEMBER 7, SEEMS UNLIKELY TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER NEWSWORTHY ACTIVITY. REPORTS OF COMBAT IN LEBANON ATTEST TO FACT THAT THIS LATEST SERIES OF CAIRO TALKS HAS HAD NO IMPACT ON THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND. AL HAS, HOWEVER, MANAGED TO AVOID PUBLIC DISCORD. EGYPTIANS COOLING IT, BUT THEY HUY WELL BELIEVE THAT LEBANESE RIGHTIST EXCESS AND OVERWEENING SYRIAN AMBITIONS WILL PROVE GOE RIGHT AND ALLOW IT TO GAIN THE INITIATIVE VIS-A-VIS SYRIA.
MATTHEWS

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